Endorsement of Indian Passport for Israel

285. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the practice which was started in 1978 to allow endorsement of Indian passport for travel to Israel has been discontinued; and

(b) whether Government proposes to ban Indians from visiting Israel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The question of travel on diplomatic and official passports, however, remains a matter of discretionary authority of the Government.

Appointment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Judges in High Courts

286. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint some new judges in the High Courts of the country, if so, the number thereof; and

(b) what is the number of judges who would be from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received some proposals to appoint new Judges in different High Courts. However, it is not possible to indicate in advance the number of persons who would be appointed as Judges, and how many of them would belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Appointment of High Court Judges from outside the State

287. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for not implementing the scheme that one third of judges in each High Court should be from outside the State;

(b) whether Government is reconsidering the issue which is causing delay in executing the transfers; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) The Government have accepted the policy of having one-third of Judges from outside in each High Court and to implement this decision by transfer as well as by initial appointment. A beginning in this direction has been made by implementing the policy of having Chief Justices in the High Courts from outside. Transfers and appointments of Chief Justices are being made pursuant to this policy. A few transfers of puisne Judges and initial appointments to outside High Court have also been made.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

In house Training to Government Employees

288. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government imparts extensive in-house training to its employees at different centres;

(b) if so, at what level is such training given; and

(c) what will be the use that such a training will be put in subsequent career of the concerned employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From LDC upwards to seniormost officers level.